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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UCKFIELD

REPORT OF THE ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Uckfield Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1943. Dr. Petrie was called up for military service on the 6th November 1943 and as from that date I was appointed Acting Medical Officer of Health.

The Minister of Health has requested that for this year interim reports only should be submitted and should be confined to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

The Crude Death Rate is 14.58 as compared with 13.2 for the previous year and with 12.1 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 33.38 which compares with 49 for the Country as a whole.

No deaths occured from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Measles.

For security reasons the population figures given in this report are not for publication.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The procedure carried out during the year for the immunisation of children against diphtheria was as follows :-

An explanatory leaflet with an acceptance form attached was sent to every parent on the child's first birthday; particulars of births being received from the Registrar. In addition, explanatory leaflets were issued to all district nurses for distribution to parents on their health visiting list. Similar leaflets were issued to Head Teachers of Schools for distribution to parents.

Clinics were arranged either at the School or convenient centre in every village, parents who had accepted immunisation being notified of the time and place.

General Practitioners throughout the district attended at these clinics and were paid by the Council on an injection basis. They were assisted at these clinics by the district nurses. The prophylactic employed was A.P.T. 0.2 c.c. followed

four weeks later by 0.5 c.c. for children under twelve years of age, and for children over 12 years three injections of 1.0 c.c. T.A.F. were given.

All parents were given the opportunity of having their children Schick Tested three months after the final injection - one General Practitioner being employed for this particular work.

During the year 1,134 children were immunised, and 1,222 Schick Tested. At the end of the year the estimated number of children 1 - 5 years of age was 2,300 and the estimated number immunised was 85%. The estimated number of children in the 5 - 15 years group was 5,000 and the estimated number immunised was 89.0%

SCABIES.

Scabies is not a compulsorily notifiable disease in this district with a result that full information regarding the extent of the disease is not available to this department.

Information was, however, obtained concerning outbreaks at various schools and a certain number of cases were also brought to our notice by medical practitioners who were unable to deal with them in the prevailing circumstances.

No fixed Cleansing Centres were available for the treatmont of the cases, but utilisation was made of the Mobile Gas Cleansing Units which were sent out to schools on receipt of information that an outbreak had occurred.

A certain number of cases were also dealt with by the District Nurses, in the patients' own homes, two applications of Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion being the routine treatment.

Use was also made of the St. Deny's Sick Bay, Rotherfield, where 140 cases of Scabies were treated.

Additional cleansing facilities are being provided in 1944, to cover the whole area and will be established at the First Aid Post, Uckfield, St. Deny's Sick Bay, Rotherfield, and the First Aid Post, East Grinstead.

WATER SUPPLY.

A survey was carried out to ascertain the position with regard to piped water supplies to houses in this district. Particulars relating to each parish are given later in the report. Out of 11,819 houses in the district, 8,590 have a piped supply, a percentage of 72.6%

There are several villages and hamlets in the district without piped water supplies and surveys are being carried out during 1944 with a view to representing to the Council the public health needs.

With financial assistance as proposed in the Rural Water Bill at present before Parliament, it should be possible to obtain piped supplies for a large number of houses at present without such a supply.

Monthly samples of water are now being taken from all public supplies in the district.

During the year, 105 samples of water were taken from private supplies. Out of this number, 77 were found to be unsatisfactory and action was taken to render these fit. In addition, twenty-four samples of water were taken during water surveys in the district.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Many parts of the district have a piped water supply and no proper means for the disposal of sewage, resulting in recurring nuisances. Parts of the district principally affected are certain portions of the Parishes of Uckfield, Maresfield, Buxted, Isfield and Withyham. In my opinion, sewerage schemes for these areas should be put in hand as soon as conditions permit and where new houses are put on piped water, a sewerage scheme should be instituted at the same time.

HOUSING.

In the years 1936 - 1939, a number of houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations and of these 70 were found to be in a state so dangerous

or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. Demolition Orders were served in respect of 30 of these.

Since the beginning of the war, very little repair work has been carried out due to the shortage of labour and restriction on materials. It will be obvious, therefore, that housing conditions have deteriorated during the past four years and an intensive drive on housing will be required when conditions permit.

SICK BAY - ST. DENY'S, ROTHERFIELD.

This Sick Bay is situated in a requisitioned private house on a side road near Rotherfield and was opened on April 1st, 1943. It was designed to treat evacuee children of this district suffering from minor ailments, the object being to free householders from the anxiety of looking after such cases at home. The house has an extensive garden, adequate and well ventilated rooms, three bathrooms, central heating and an excellent kitchen and can accommodate 22 children.

The nursing Staff consists of a Matron, one C.N.R. Nursing Auxiliary and three Auxiliary V.A.D.'s supplied from the Rotherfield detachment of the Red Cross Society.

In accordance with Government instructions, some accommodation has been set aside for the treatment of scabies cases in the district, and it is no exaggeration to say that this has proved most useful and has helped in dealing with scabies throughout the whole district.

Dr. Burnford of Rotherfield, acts as Medical Officer, visits the Sick Bay at regular intervals and is available at any time in an emergency, while the general supervision is carried out by this department.

Since its opening, the work of the Sick Bay has gone on smoothly, thanks to the supervision and care of Mrs. A. M. Rogers, the Matron.

The improvement which has been effected in the general condition of the children has only to be seen to be appreciated.

The following cases have been treated between April 1st and December 31st, 1943 :-

1. Minor Ailments 17

2. Scabies - Evacuees .. 17; Local .. 29.. 46
- Outpatients 94

3. Other cases admitted by special arrangement ... 5

The costs are borne in the case of evacuee children by the Ministry, and by the Local Authority for the scabies cases.

My thanks are due to Colonol D. L. Graham, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and to Mr. A. J. Williams, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. STOTT

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	112,099 acres.
Registrar General's estimated population ...	39,360
Density of population per acre	0.35
Number of inhabited houses	11,819
Rateable Value	£302,398
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£1,172
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	16.74
Death Rate per 1,000 Population.....	14.58
Infantile Mortality Rate	33.38

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	559	296	263
Illegitimate...	100	47	53
	659	343	316

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	574	255	319

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE UCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	4	4	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	2	2
Syphilitic diseases	-	1	1
Influenza	10	11	21
Acute infective encephalitis.....	-	1	1
Cancer	48	64	112
Diabetes	-	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	31	49	80
Heart disease	58	77	135
Other Circulatory diseases	11	8	19
Bronchitis	12	21	33
Pneumonia	14	10	24
Other Respiratory diseases.....	4	3	7
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	3	2	5
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	1	2
Appendicitis	-	3	3
Other Digestive diseases	6	9	15
Nephritis	7	8	15
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	2	2
Congenital debility and premature births	9	3	12
Suicide	3	-	3
Road traffic accidents	4	4	8
Other violent causes	8	10	18
All other causes	22	24	46
	255	319	574

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1943.

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Smallpox	Measles	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year.
England and Wales.	16.5	0.51	12.1	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.37	-	0.02	5.3	49
126 County Boroughs and great Towns including London.	18.6	0.63	14.2	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.36	-	0.02	7.9	58
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	19.4	0.61	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.37	-	0.02	4.4	[illegible]
London.	15.8	0.45	15.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.27	-	0.02	10.4	[illegible]
Uckfield Rural District	16.7	0.48	14.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	-	0.00	0.05	33.38

	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Causes.	Total.
The Maternal Mortality Rates for England & Wales are as follows:- per 1,000 Total Births	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Uckfield Rural District are as follows	Nil.	2.95	2.95

WATER SUPPLIES - Position with regard to piped water supply.

PARISH	Total No. of Houses	No. of houses having main water supply
BUXTED	584	446
CROWBOROUGH	2032	1967
DANEHILL	351	-
FOREST ROW	1013	706
FLETCHING	295	20
ISFIELD	153	101
LITTLE HORSTED ...	65	12
FRAMFIELD	497	20
FRANT	415	193
HADLOW DOWN	259	163
HARTFIELD	654	367
MARESFIELD	835	482
MAYFIELD	862	751
ROTHERFIELD	819	663
UCKFIELD	1089	1062
WADHURST	1105	982
WITHYHAM	791	655
TOTALS	11,819	8,590

SANITARY SUPERVISION.

No. of inspections made under the Housing and Public Health Acts	1,243
No. of premises other than houses visited under the Public Health Acts	56
Inspections made to cowsheds, milkshops and dairies ...	1,318
Visits to Bakehouses	58
" " Factories	41
" " Butchers Shops and Slaughterhouses	260
" " Slaughterhouses under the Byelaws	4
" " Knackers Yard	22
" " Food premises	244
" " Shops	7
" " Hop-pickers Lodgings	46
" in connection with Tents, Vans and Sheds	38
" " " " Infectious diseases	166
" " " " Water supplies	258
" " " " Emergency water supplies	72
" " " " eradication of bed bugs	16
" " " " " " other vermin .	27
" " " " sanitary accommodation at Schools	8
" " " " Civil Defence and Food Decontamination ...	219
Miscellaneous visits	336
Interviews	236
Number of drain tests carried out	22
No. of water samples taken	129
No. of milk samples taken	177
No. of rooms disinfected	21

No. of Preliminary Notices served	287
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	210
No. of Statutory Notices served	11
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	8

Byelaws relating to Hop-pickers.

Forty-six visits were made to hop-pickers lodgings during the season. A total of eighty-four lodgings were provided on the seven farms where imported pickers were employed and the occupants comprised eleven males, ninety-seven females and ninety-three children.

The following improvements were made to lodgings as the result of earlier representations :-

Huts repaired or improved	1
New drying room provided	1
Huts cleansed and limewashed	84
Earth closets improved	11
Additional closets provided	1
Refuse bins provided	6

Meat and Other Foods.

The inspection of meat at the Ministry of Food's centralised slaughterhouse at Uckfield was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. During the year 9 tons 17 cwts. 1 qr. ½ lb of unsound food was surrendered.

Total no. of visits to Butcher's Shops and Slaughterhouses	260
No. of visits to Slaughterhouses under the Byelaws	4

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	409	262	735	2104	181
Number inspected	409	262	735	2104	181
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	-	3	-	7	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	80	91	1	149	1
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	3	19	4	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	62	95	-	-	6

Of the 735 calves killed, 66 were heifer calves.

Foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered.

236	Tins	Meat	Blown, decomposed or damaged.
543	"	Fish	" " " "
2,869	"	Milk	" " " "
40	"	Fruit	" " " "
91	"	Soup	Blown
37	"	Vegetables	Blown or damaged
1	"	Jam	Blown

1 x 200 lbs barrel	Dried Milk	Damp and unpalatable
4 cwts 1½ lbs	Bacon	Stained, magotty or decomposed
8 Jars	Marmalade	Broken and containing glass
4 lbs	"	Contaminated with Chloros
4 lbs	Jam	Contaminated with Chloros or unwholesome.
1 cwt. 49 lbs.	Cereals	Damaged, musty or damp
2 part sacks	Rolled Oats ...	Musty and fouled by rats
28 x 1 cwt sacks	Rolled Oats ...	Damaged
14 lbs	Cheese	Mouldy and unsaleable
28 lbs	Coffee Beans .	Impregnated with oil.
24½ lbs	Tea	Mouldy, musty or impregnated with oil.
28 lbs	Coffee	Contaminated with oil.
1 Tin	Syrup	Unwholesome
2 Jars	Syrup	Broken and containing glass
27 lbs	Biscuits	Damaged by floods
9 cwts	Sugar	Fouled by rats
1 sack	Soya Flour	Mouldy
4 lbs	Dried eggs	Musty and damp
42 packets	" "	Mouldy
157 bars	Chocolate	Musty, damp or mouldy
18 cwts	Carrots	Rotted
114 lbs	Green Broad Beans.	Unsaleable and magotty
10 lbs	Cake	Mouldy
1 Jar	Gooseberries ..	"
7 lbs	Cocoa	"
735	Lyons Fruit Pies.	"
20 lbs	Suet	Sour or decomposed
43	Marmite Cubes .	Mouldy
50 lbs	Prunes	Fermentation
19 gallons	Pickle	Decomposed
11 Jars	"	Decomposed or mouldy
36	Eggs	Decomposed
26¼ lbs	Butter	Rancid or tainted
83 lbs	Cooked ham	Decomposed
325	Meat pies	"
3¾ lbs	Peaches	Mouldy
12 lbs	Pork Sausages .	Mouldy
12 lbs	Wet fish	Decomposed
162 lbs	Soyghetti	Weevils
9 Jars	Herring fillets	Decomposed

HOUSING

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 343

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1243

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 4

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 4

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..... Nil

(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 203

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE :-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 133

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... Nil

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice -

(a) By owners ..... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .... Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice -

(a) By owners 4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .... Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3

(3) Number of houses rendered fit following Undertaking given after service of a Time and Place Notice - Section 11 ..... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined 1

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - Part IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year 33

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 43

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 278

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 6

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year :-

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	82	75	-
Diphtheria	3	3	-
Erysipelas	16	4	-
Pneumonia	38	6	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	6	-
Dysentery	5	5	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Measles.	826	22	-
Whooping Cough	81	-	-
Encephalitis.	1	1	-
Totals.	1067	124	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 year.	1.	2.	3	4	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Totals.
Scarlet Fever	-	2	3	2	3	50	13	-	5	4	-	-	82
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	2	-	2	2	-	7	1	1	1	4	9	9	38
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	4	6	1	16
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	3	-	-	12
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles.	14	37	41	44	65	448	122	24	20	10	1	-	826
Whooping Cough	3	4	5	5	9	49	6	-	-	-	-	-	81
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Dysentery.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Encephalitis.	TOTALS.
BUXTED	9	-	2	-	-	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	54
CROWBOROUGH.	15	1	6	3	6	-	327	5	-	1	1	1	366
DANEHILL	-	-	-	1	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	47
FLETCHING.	-	-	-	2	-	-	27	-	-	-	-	-	29
FOREST ROW.	3	-	2	2	2	-	8	1	5	-	-	-	23
FRAMFIELD.	14	-	3	-	1	-	12	2	-	-	-	-	32
FRANT.	4	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	24
HADLOW DOWN.	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	17	-	-	-	-	25
HARTFIELD.	3	-	2	2	-	-	19	1	-	-	-	-	27
ISFIELD	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	4
Little HORSTED	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
MARESFIELD	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	33	-	-	-	-	34
MAYFIELD.	7	-	2	-	1	1	26	4	-	-	-	-	41
ROTHERFIELD.	5	-	7	2	-	-	169	6	-	-	-	-	189
UCKFIELD.	9	-	11	1	-	-	22	9	-	-	-	-	52
WADHURST.	6	2	1	1	2	-	99	-	-	-	-	-	111
WITHYHAM	4	-	2	3	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	18
TOTALS.	82	3	38	16	12	1	326	81	5	1	1	1	1067

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES Respiratory M.	NEW CASES Respiratory F.	NEW CASES Non-Resp. M.	NEW CASES Non-Resp. F.	DEATHS Respiratory M.	DEATHS Respiratory F.	DEATHS Non.Resp. M.	DEATHS Non.Resp. F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5	-	1	4	4	-	-	-	1
15.....	3	3	2	-	-	1	-	-
25	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
35	8	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	2	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
55	4	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
65 years & upwards	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	20	12	8	6	4	4	-	2

THE HIGH GROVE ISOLATION HOSPITAL, EAST GRINSTEAD.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease	E.Grinstead Urban	Uckfield Rural	Other Districts	Totals
Scarlet Fever	22	47	16	85
Scarlet Fever Carrier	-	1	-	1
Diphtheria	3	3	12	18
Diphtheria Observation	-	2	2	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever Observation	-	2	-	2
Pneumonia	3	-	1	4
Erysipelas	-	3	2	5
Erysipelas and Cellulitis	1	-	-	1
Measles	1	1	2	4
Measles and Meningitis	-	1	-	1
Mumps	1	2	29	32
Tonsilitis	1	4	1	6
Dysentery	1	-	-	1
Rhinorrhoea	-	1	-	1
Pediculosis	-	1	-	1
Pediculosis and Impetigo	-	1	-	1
Impetigo	-	1	-	1
Typhoid	1	-	-	1
Vincents Angina	-	-	1	1
Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	1
Chickenpox	-	7	1	8
Chickenpox Observation	-	-	1	1
Rubella	-	-	4	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	1	-	1
Totals	34	79	72	185

CUTTENS, EAST GRINSTEAD.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the Year.

Disease	E.Grinstead Urban	Uckfield Rural	Other Districts	Totals
Scarlet Fever	6	23	10	39
Scarlet Fever Observation	-	-	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	-	1
Pneumonia Observation	-	1	-	1
Erysipelas	-	1	-	1
Measles	5	19	52	76
Measles Observation	1	-	-	1
Mumps	1	-	1	2
Tonsilitis	2	2	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	1	4	5
Whooping Cough Observation	1	-	-	1
Streptococcal Throat	-	1	2	3
Streptococcal Carrier	-	-	3	3
Otorrhoea	-	-	3	3
Rhinorrhoea	-	-	2	2
Otorrhoea and Rhinorrhoea	-	-	2	2
Dysentery Carrier	-	6	-	6
Scabies	7	1	-	8
Enteritis	-	-	1	1
Pharyngitis	-	-	1	1
Rubella Observation	-	-	1	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	2	2
Trench Mouth	-	1	-	1
Totals	24	56	85	165